COMICS INTERVIEW PUBLICATION
#5
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OCT
ARISTOCRATIC
XTRATERRESTRIAL
TIME-TRAVELING
THIEVES
™
"FRED SEES RED!"

It's fun being a writer. Just think, I get to sit around the house (okay, so it's an apartment — I still get to sit around in it) and think up neat ideas to turn into comic book stories. If I decide I need to take an afternoon off, I just take it (as long as it doesn't make me miss my deadlines, that is). I even get into comic book conventions free. Yes, it's wonderful life!

I can see it now — you're waiting for the "but" that's supposed to come next. As in, it's a wonderful life, but... And that's the interesting part about this — there's no "but" associated with it.

One of the particularly fun things you can do when you're a writer is name characters after people you know — be they friends or enemies. For instance, in the **Southern Knights,** *I've named David Shenk's girlfriend after a frequent letter writer. And I named a character who got eaten after someone I sort of had hopes might really get eaten sometime! More recently, I named a character in the* **Dragon** *mini-series (should be on sale now — go buy 5 or 6 copies of each issue) after a friend. Right after I'd done it, I was riding with him somewhere and we were talking about the mini-series. So I told him I had named a character in one of the issues after him. He got really rather excited (this also, of course, piqued his interest in the mini-series even more than it had been before — one must always think of the monetary side of things — heh, heh) and wanted all sorts of details. Well, as any good writer will tell you, you never give that kind of information away in advance — but I did tell him one thing... "Yeah," I said, "You die." (Have to get your fun where you can these days!)*

And just to show that I'm no more immune to finding my name in a comic book (one written by someone else — it doesn't count if you use your own book), I've been anticipating an issue of Comico's **Justice Machine** *(written by a wonderful human being, Tony Isabella) in which I'll find my name. According to Tony, there'll be an occupation (as when military people come in and occupy your country) named after me! The Vogel Occupation — I like the sound of that.*

Henry

Letter of the Month

Guys:

The "Reality" issue of X-THIEVES was okay but the dialogue, which once was funny, is now a little too cutesy and strained; maybe just in that particular issue. Or maybe just not my kind of humor. **T. M. Maple** should be given a Molson enema. He reminds me of the "Little Man" in **Wilhelm Reich's** "Listen, Little Man;" the guy always willing to bow to Authority. Oh, I'm sure he writes nasty letters to his Congressman (or whatever they have in Beaverland) and votes the rascals out whenever he can, but that's just defying particular authorities not Authority itself.

Bill Chadwick
1160 Briarcliff Court - Apt. C
Atlanta, GA 30306

Any reply, "T.M."?

Dear X-Thieves people,

I enjoyed the first four issues of the **X-Thieves** because it has elements of fun, danger, and adventure. I love both Fred and Bianca, who steal from the rich and give to themselves. Their major foes are the Continuity Inquisition, the IRS, and a four-armed Rambo type. Fred is kind of cute like Gordon Chumpway of **Alf**, but Fred is sneakier. Bianca is an **Emma Peel** type with a nice sneaky streak, too. I have several ideas for future plots for the **X-Thieves:**

1) I would like to see a plot in which Fred and Bianca are captured by the Cyberleks (a combination of **Dr. Who** foes, the Cyberman and the Daleks).

2) I would like a plot in which the **X-Thieves** encounter werewolves, vampires, etc. on a haunted planet.

3) I would like a plot in which Fred and Bianca encounter Homes and Watson in a plot in 1899.

4) I would like a plot in which Fred and Bianca are stranded in old Hollywood. In this plot, Bianca becomes a movie star in several Perils of Penny movies.

William Griffith
1043 E100 Pl
Chicago, IL 60628

Thanks for the compliments! I kind of doubt we'll be able to use the plot suggestions, since we've got the book planned for at least the next year or so, but you never can tell!

DRAGON WEEKLY!

DRAGON WEEKLY MINI-SERIES #s 1-4 -- $1.75 each. A four-issue saga starring the popular character from the Southern Knights in solo stories! One of the last survivors of an ancient, powerful race, he is not a man who can turn into a dragon -- he IS a dragon! One who rediscovered his race's ability to assume human form! One who survived! This is the story of Dragon's journey through history!

Pansafredicopacog — or **FRED** for short (which he is). He'll "acquire" anything from anywhen for you—IF the price is right.

BIANCA — Fred's partner. She's never met a lock she couldn't pick.

ARISTOCRATIC XTRATERRESTRIAL TIME-TRAVELING THIEVES™

Transformers? Go-Bots? **Bah!** The **FREDMOBILE** bears them all! It's a sleek, FTL car that can turn into ANYTHING (nor to mention, travel through space and time)!

HENRY VOGEL — WRITER, CO-CREATOR

MARK PROPST — ARTIST, CO-CREATOR

JIM MASSARA — LETTERER

DWIGHT JON ZIMMERMAN — EDITOR

DAVID ANTHONY KRAFT — PUBLISHER, CO-CREATOR

X-MEN
FOR CRIMES AGAINST THE PEOPLES OF FIFTY WORLDS, INCLUDING THE TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF THE PLANET SMITHSON, I'M TAKING YOU FOUR IN— DEAD OR ALIVE!
YOU! AND WHAT ARMY?
IT SEEMS YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF HUNK THE BOUNTY HUNTER!

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YAAAH!
BOOM
OKAY--I GUESS THAT TAKES CARE OF THE INTRO-DUCTIONS!
NOW, HOW ABOUT YOU GUYS?
WANT TO CUT YOUR LOSSES NOW-- AND GO TO JAIL ALIVE?
OR DO I CUT THEM FOR YOU? YOUR CHOICE!
INSOLENT BUFFOON--YOU DO NOT FIGHT COMMON THUGS NOW! I WILL REND YOUR FLESH AND GRIND YOUR BONES FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE!
OH, QUAKE IN FEAR! RECOIL IN TERROR!
OH, SLICE AND DICE!
SWOOSH
THAK
SCREEE!
GRIND ON THAT FOR A WHILE, BUSTER!
LAST CHANCE TO SURRENDER! WHO'S FIRST?
FFT

BONK! BONK!
YOU DIE NOW!
HMMMMMM
I WAS HOPING YOU'D SAY THAT!
YOW!
SMACK
BONK?
BONK! BONK!
NICE LITTLE TOY I'VE GOT HERE, EH? MAKES BIG HOLES FOR BIG IDIOTS TO FALL INTO!
I, UM -- I'D.. I'D LIKE TO SURRENDER!
GEE, TOO BAD ABOUT THAT! WHEN I SAID LAST CHANCE, I MEANT... LAST CHANCE!

READY OR NOT, HERE I COME!
CAN'T WE WORK SOMETHING OUT?
FWAP
WHY? I'M ALREADY GETTING A GOOD WORK OUT!
PLEASE? OUCH!
NOPE.
SMAK
PRETTY PLEASE?
NOT EVEN WITH SUGAR ON IT!
OOOOOHHHH... SURELY THERE'S SOMETHING YOU WANT! HOW ABOUT MONEY--I'LL PAY YOU TWICE THE BOUNTY ON US!
NO THANKS... BAD FOR THE REPUTATION!
BESIDES, I'VE GOT EVERYTHING I NEED!
SLAP
THERE'S THE PLACE WE'RE LOOKING FOR, FRED!
THAT VOICE!
YEP, EVERY-THING I-- HUH?
EVERY-THING-- EXCEPT...
BIANCA!

TO AN OFF-WORLDER, IT'S AN **EYESORE**---TO A NATIVE, A **PALACE**.

TO FRED AND BIANCA, A **TARGET**...

AND TO HUNK, A PLACE TO RECLAIM **LOST LOVE!**

INSIDE THE EYESORE...

WOW! SOLID GOLD--AND **CUTE** TO BOOT!

YEAH--AND THAT DOG GIVES ME SOME **IDEAS** FOR WHEN WE GET HOME!

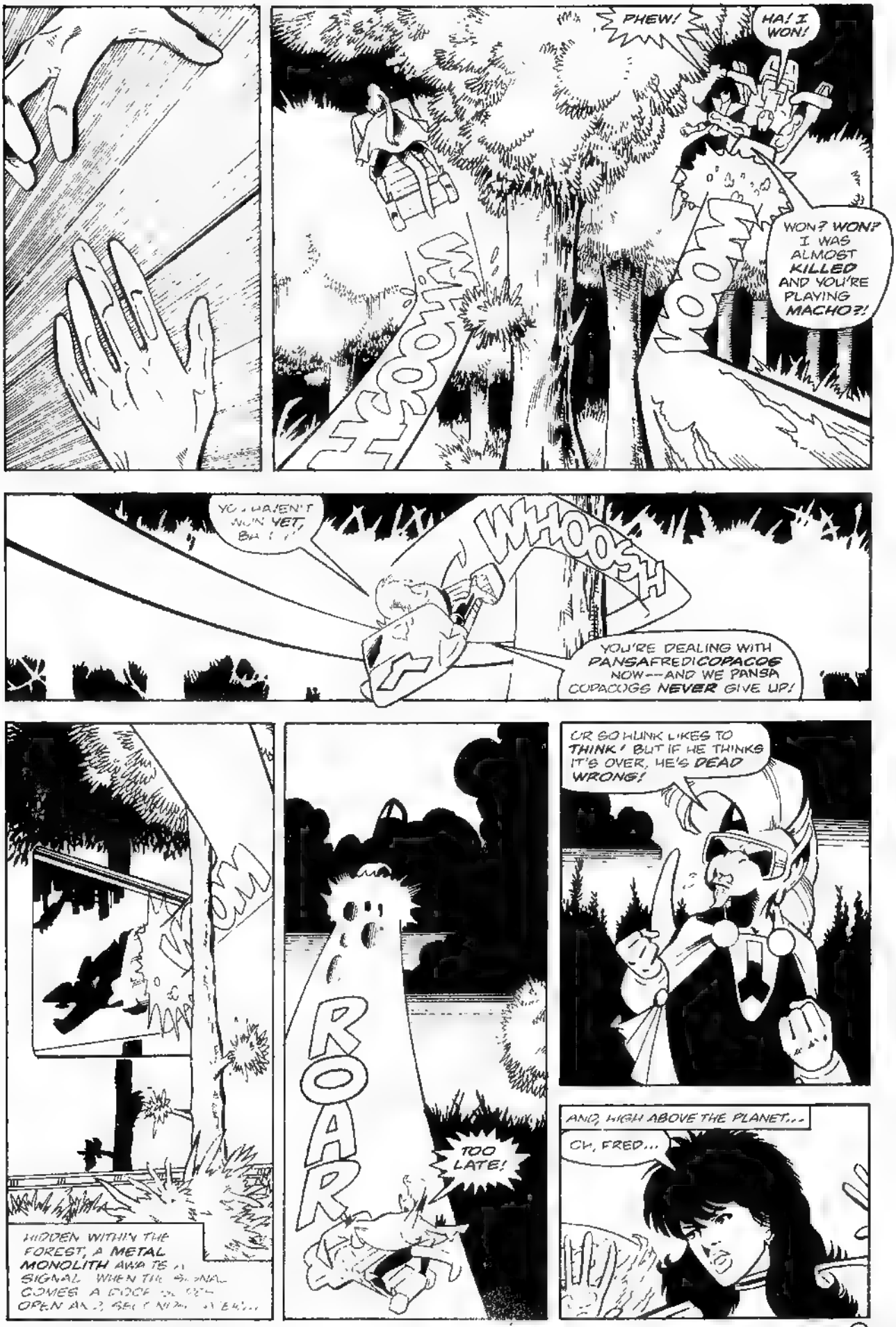
WE'LL SEE ABOUT **THAT** LATER! BUT FOR NOW I WANT YOU TO BE THINKING WITH YOUR **BRAIN**--AND NOTHING ELSE!

HEY, YOU'RE TALKING TO PANSAFREDICOPACOG, BIANCA! I CAN THINK WITH THREE OR FOUR PARTS OF MY ANATOMY AND STILL PULL OFF A JOB LIKE THIS!
ESPECIALLY WITH A CAR LIKE OURS!
CLICK
YEP-- PUSH THE RIGHT BUTTONS AND IT GETS BIGGER!
JUST LIKE A MAN, I MIGHT ADD!
HMMMMMM
BIANCA--
"--KEEP YOUR MIND ON THE JOB AT HAND, PLEASE!"
HMMMMMMMM
HAVE NO FEAR, FLOYD IS HERE!
ZIP
THAT'S NICE, FLOYD--- PUT THE STATUE IN THE BOX!
HOW 'BOUT A DITTY, FLOYD THINKS IT'S PRETTY!
IT'S BIG AND LONG, BUT FLOYD IS SMALL AND STRONG!
INTO THE BOX, SEE? INTO THE BOX, WHEE!
WOOP
WOOP
WOOP
WOOP
WOOP
ALL RIGHT! WE'RE OUTTA HERE NOW!
BUT...
6

THERE SHE IS! UNWILLINGLY HELD IN THRALL TO THAT TINY TYRANT!
TIME TO HIT THE OL' SPACEWAYS, RIGHT?
BIANCA--WHY OH WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS IN SUCH A HURRY? YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE TIME TO STOP AND STEAL THE ROSES!
THIS IS FOR YOU MY BEAUTIFUL, BRAINWASHED BIANCA!
ZAP
YOW! OKAY-- SO I'LL LEAVE THE ROSES ALONE!
ZASK
PRAISE BOBA FETT --YOU'RE SAFE NOW, BIANCA!
WHAT THE HELL--?! HUNK--?!
YES, MY LOVE, 'TIS I! ONCE WE'RE FREE OF SHORT STUFF, YOU CAN PLEDGE YOUR UNDYING LOVE TO ME!
HA HA HA HA HA
DAMN! WHAT A PAIN!

DID YOU THINK I HAD JUST FORGOTTEN YOU, MY DEAR?
VOOM
COME ON DOWN OFF YOUR CLOUD! LOOK, HUNK, OUR LITTLE FLING WAS FUN, BUT IT'S OVER!
YOU KNOW NOT WHAT YOU SAY, BIANCA! THE SHORT ONE HAS WOVEN HIS EVIL SPELL OVER YOU AND CONFUSED YOUR POOR LITTLE MIND!
MY POOR LITTLE-- DON'T YOU REMEMBER WHY I LEFT YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE?
INDEED I DO! THE SHORT--
YO--GUANO-BRAIN! GIVE BACK THE FRAIL OR EAT HOT ENERGY!
NEVER WILL I RETURN HER TO THE LIKES OF YOU! BETTER WE BOTH DIE FIRST!
DIE?! DIE?? HOLD IT!
FRED, YOU OVER-ZEALOUS WHITE KNIGHT! BLAST HIM AND YOU BLAST ME, TOO!

HEH, HEH! OOPS! YOU'RE RIGHT!
CLICK
...IT WAS, UM, JUST A THREAT-- WOULDN'TA DONE IT, OF COURSE.
WITH A SLIGHT HUM, THE FREDMOBILE ONCE AGAIN DOES THE AMAZING--CONTRACTING, SHRINKING, ABSORBING ITS MASSIVE BULK UNTIL ALL THAT IS LEFT IS...
AN AIR-SLED!
HANG ON, BABE -- I'M COMING!
WHOOSH
JELLYSTONE PARK
WHOOSH
THE RUNT GAVE UP EASIER THAN I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT!
OH, YEAH? THIS SHOULD TEACH YOU NOT TO WASTE ENERGY THINKING!
YIPE! FRED, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
RESCUING YOU!!
SURELY, THERE'S A BETTER WAY THAN THIS!
UH, OH! UM, GUYS, THERE'S A TREE UP THERE!
GUYS?
TREE - THAT'S TEE, AR, EE, EE!
SOMEONE PLEASE LET GO!
BLAST!


PHEW!
HA! I WON!
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WON? WON? I WAS ALMOST KILLED AND YOU'RE PLAYING MACHO?!
YOU HAVEN'T WON YET, BA!
WHOOSH
YOU'RE DEALING WITH PANSAFREDICOPACOS NOW--AND WE PANSA COPACOGS NEVER GIVE UP!
KAPOW
HIDDEN WITHIN THE FOREST, A METAL MONOLITH AWAITS A SIGNAL. WHEN THE SIGNAL COMES A DOOR WILL OPEN AND [illegible]
ROAR
TOO LATE!
UR SO HUNK LIKES TO THINK! BUT IF HE THINKS IT'S OVER, HE'S DEAD WRONG!
AND, HIGH ABOVE THE PLANET...
OH, FRED...

SIGH!
THIS IS WORSE THAN EVEN I THOUGHT!
SHE ACTUALLY BELIEVES SHE CARES FOR THAT SAWED-OFF EXCUSE FOR AN E.T.!
AND MOMENTS LATER...
YOU SLUG SLIME! YOU KNOW I'M NOT INTO BONDAGE!
IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!
IF YOU WERE FREE, YOU MIGHT RETURN TO THAT PUNY THIEF! YOU MUST STAY SECURED UNTIL I AM DEPROGRAM YOU FROM KNOWING THAT YOU LOVE ME, NOT THAT MAN ANTHROPOD.
YOU'RE OUT OF WHAT LITTLE MIND YOU HAVE LEFT!
BUT HUNK IGNORES BIANCA'S ATTACKS, BELIEVING, DEEP IN HIS HEART THAT SHE DOESN'T REALLY MEAN WHAT SHE SAYS. THESE THOUGHTS ACCOMPANY HIM BACK TO THE CONTROL ROOM, WHERE...
WHAT--?! HOW?
OH, HOW QUICKLY THEY FORGET! THOSE CHAINS WOULDN'T HAVE HELD ME TEN YEARS AGO MUCH LESS NOW!
MEANWHILE, JUST A FEW LIGHT SECONDS BEHIND...
THE ENGINES THEY CANNA TAKE NO MORE,
COM'--ER, COMPUTER! FASTER!
MUTTERING TO ITSELF, THE COMPUTER POURS ON THE SPEED, LEADING FRED TO DWELL ON THE EVILS THAT COULD BE HAPPENING AT THIS VERY MOMENT...
HMM

AS THE TWO SHIPS DRAW EVER CLOSER, HE WORRIES THAT HE'LL ARRIVE **TOO LATE**, LOSE BIANCA TO THE MUSCLE-BRAINED **BOUNTY HUNTER**! BUT HIS FEAR RUNS **DEEPER** THAN THAT OF A CONCERNED LOVER --FOR IF HE LOSES BIANCA, HE LOSES **MORE** THAN THE WOMAN HE LOVES HE LOSES HIS **PARTNER**!

BOY, HUNK, YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO SHOW A GIRL A **GOOD TIME**!

NOT EVEN **YOU** CAN BREAK THESE LOCKS! SOME DAY YOU'LL **THANK** ME FOR THIS, BIANCA!

CONFIDENTLY, HUNK RETURNS TO THE CONTROL ROOM WARMED BY THOUGHTS OF BIANCA'S FUTURE **GRATITUDE**..

AND FINDS...

BIANCA?!

RIGHT THE **FIRST** TIME!

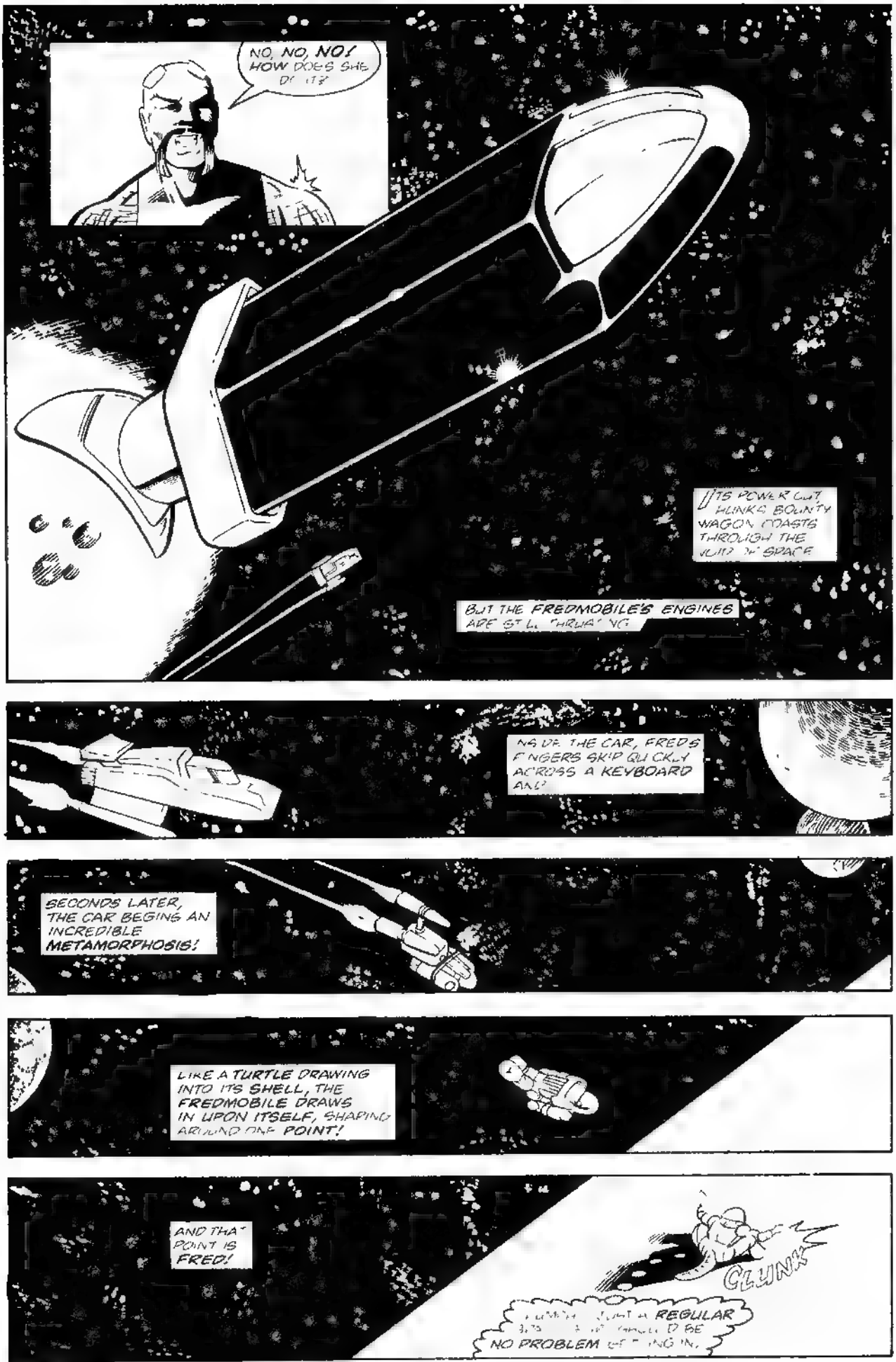
MOMENTS LATER...

THIS IS **NOT** ENDEARING YOU TO ME!

DEPROGRAMMING IS **DIFFICULT**-- BUT I WILL **OVERCOME**! NOW **STAY PUT**!

THIS TIME SHE CAN'T **ESCAPE** FROM-- WHA--?

THERE, I'VE CUT THE **POWER** --**FRED** OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO BOARD US NOW!


NO, NO, NO! HOW DOES SHE DO IT?
ITS POWER OUT, HUNKS BOUNTY WAGON COASTS THROUGH THE VOID OF SPACE
BUT THE FREDMOBILE'S ENGINES ARE STILL THRUMMING
AS DR. THE CAR, FRED'S FINGERS SKIP QUICKLY ACROSS A KEYBOARD AND
SECONDS LATER, THE CAR BEGINS AN INCREDIBLE METAMORPHOSIS!
LIKE A TURTLE DRAWING INTO ITS SHELL, THE FREDMOBILE DRAWS IN UPON ITSELF, SHAPING AROUND ONE POINT!
AND THAT POINT IS FRED!
CLUNK!
REGULAR
NO PROBLEM

BUT THOUGH ENTRANCE MAY BE EASY, IT IS NOT GOING UNOBSERVED
HE'S A DETERMINED LITTLE RUNT, I'LL GIVE HIM THAT!
BUT I ALL IT TOOK TO BEAT ME WAS DETERMINATION TO BE FEARLESS NOW! FEAR NOT PRETTY DOG BANDIT, I WON'T GET MY PAWS ON YOU AGAIN
YOU DELUDED IDIOT!
I WANT HIM TO GET HIS PAWS ON ME AGAIN! I LOVE HIM--NOT YOU!
THERE'S NO NEED TO KEEP UP THIS CHARADE OF CARING FOR HIM, MY PASSION FLOWER!
HE CANNOT HEAR YOU, CANNOT HARM YOU!
CLICK
AND, SOON HE WILL BE DEAD!
PERHAPS THEN YOU'LL FEEL SAFE FROM HIM AND ADMIT YOUR TRUE FEELINGS FOR ME

BUT, EVEN THOUGH YOUR TRUE FEELINGS ARE UNVOICED I AM STILL CONTENT JUST TO HAVE YOU IN THE ME AGAIN
WELL, IF THAT'S ALL YOU WANTED, WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO? WE COULD HAVE SET UP A REN-DEZVOUS -- SAY, IN THE MIDDLE OF A NOVA!
THAT'S THE PIGMY SPEAK NO, BIANCA -- NOT YOU, I KNOW IT IN MY THREE HEARTS!
NOW, HANG ON!
JUMPING JET, THE SHIP'S RETRO-ROCKETS COME ON.
WHOA WHO STEPPED ON THE SPACE BRAKES? I'M LOSING MY GRIP!
AS FRED DRIFTS FORWARD, THE SHIP SPEEDS ALONG ITS COURSE - RIGHT AT THE PLANET DEAD AHEAD!
-SIGH- I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO MAKE MY ENTRANCE THROUGH THE NOSE..
BUT, THE MOMENT FRED REACHES IT, THE RETROS SHUT OFF -- AND THE MAIN ENGINES COME ON AT FULL POWER -
OOOF! THIS JUST IS NOT MY DAY!

SO, PINNED TO THE NOSE BY THE ACCELERATION, THE LITTLE TWIT SHOULD BURN UP WHEN WE ENTER THE PLANET'S ATMOSPHERE!
GOSH, HUNK -- THAT'S REALLY SOMETHING!
YEAH, I KNOW!
SOMETHING DISGUSTING, THAT IS!
HEY--MY BOLO! BIANCA! WHAT--
WHAT AM I DOING? CUTTING THIS ACCELERATION, OF COURSE!
WHIP WHIP WHIP WHIP
THE BOLO WHIPS UNERRINGLY TOWARD THE CONTROL PANEL, AND...
WHIP
WHIP
WHIP
WHIP
WHIP
WHIP
WHIP
WHIP
WHIP
BOOM
BIANCA, YOU BRAINWASHED FOOL! WE'RE OUT OF CONTROL! WE'LL CRASH!
OH WELL, YOU CAN'T WIN THEM ALL!

GRIPPED BY THE PLANET'S GRAVITY, THE SHIP PLUNGES FASTER... FASTER! OUTSIDE, THE FIRST LAYER OF THE HULL QUICKLY TURNS MOLTEN!
AND WHAT OF FRED?
WELL, THIS CERTAINLY IS A REVOLTING DEVELOPMENT!
I HAVEN'T BEEN THIS HOT SINCE...HELL, I'VE NEVER BEEN THIS HOT!
HA, HA, HA, HA, HA! YOU'RE FREE! FREE AT LAST, BIANCA!
FRED!
SSSSSSS
SPLASH
SECONDS LATER, A LAGOON EXPLODES IN STEAM AS THE WHITE-HOT SHIP PLUNGES INTO IT!
HA! WE'RE DOWN SAFE AND SOUND!
W-WHERE'S FRED?
FRED? OH, COME NOW, BIANCA --SURELY YOU CAN FIGURE THAT OUT!
HE'S DEAD!
NO! HE CAN'T BE!

LUSH TROPICAL VEGETATION, PLEASANTLY WARM TEMPERATURES, A GENTLE BREEZE BLOWING ACROSS THE BRILLIANT BLUE WATER --THIS SHOULD BE A PARADISE. YET, FOR BIANCA, THIS IS RAPIDLY TURNING INTO HER OWN PRIVATE HELL.
SO, NOW WHAT? DO YOU KILL ME LIKE YOU KILLED FRED?
DON'T BE SILLY! I WANT US TO BE TOGETHER FOR LIFE!
I THINK I LIKED MY IDEA BETTER...
BUT I'LL HAVE TO SEARCH FOR THE TWERP'S BODY SOMETIME--- BOUND TO BE A REWARD FOR HIM!
RIGHT NOW, THOUGH, I JUST WANT TO GET REACQUAINTED WITH YOU!
STAY AWAY FROM ME, YOU MURDERER!
NOT MURDERER--- BOUNTY HUNTER!
YOU'LL LEARN THE DIFFERENCE EVENTUALLY!
N-NEVER!

THE LADY TOLD YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM HER--SO GET YOUR GOD-DAMN HANDS OFF OF HER!
WHAT--?!
FRED! Y-YOU'RE ALIVE!
HEH, HEH --MAYBE, BUT THE LITTLE MONKEY IS ALL WET!
SNATCH!
YEAH --AND THE BIG APE'S FULL OF CRAP!
I'VE HAD MY FILL OF YOU! YOU KIDNAP MY PARTNER, LEAD ME ACROSS HALF THE DAMN GALAXY--
--YOU TRY TO FRY ME, THEN YOU TRY TO DROWN ME!
ONLY BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T TAKE A HINT!

I'LL GIVE YOU A HINT--WOMEN AREN'T PLAY-THINGS! YOU TREAT THEM WITH HONOR AND RESPECT!
YOU'VE OFFENDED BIANCA'S HONOR AND, BY DOING THAT, MINE TOO!
YOU TELL HIM, FRED!
THERE--THE GAUNTLET IS THROWN! THE QUESTION IS--DO YOU HAVE ANY HONOR? DO YOU ACCEPT MY CHALLENGE?
SMAK
DO YOU?!
JIM, FRED--HE'S A LOT BIGGER THAN YOU, YOU KNOW!
HA, HA! I'LL GLADLY ACCEPT YOUR FOOLISH CHALLENGE, THAT WAY BIANCA CAN SEE HOW GOOD A REAL MAN LIKE ME WILL BE FOR HER!
REAL MAN? GIVE ME A BREAK! WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS IS--THE 1980s?

LISTEN TO ME REAL ***CAREFULLY***, HUNK -- ***YOU*** KILL FRED AND ***I'LL*** KILL YOU!

NOW, NOW, BIANCA-- YOU'VE BEEN ***THINKING*** TOO HARD AND GOTTEN YOUR PRETTY LITTLE HEAD ALL ***CON-FUSED!***

HEY--!

HUNK! DON'T YOU ***DARE*** THROW ME IN THE--

YOU JUST ***RELAX*** AND LET ME AND MIDGET "DIS-CUSS" THINGS --OKAY?

AND HE ***WONDERS*** HOW I COULD EVER HAVE LEFT HIM...

YOU'VE GOT A LOT TO ***LEARN***, JERK--AND ***I'M*** THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO TEACH YOU!

YOU--?!

SLAP

SOC

NOT ***BAD*** --I ***ALMOST*** FELT IT!

GOT ANY ***MORE?***

FRED DOES...

UNFORTUNATELY, WHEN FRED PAUSES...
IF THAT WAS YOUR BEST SHOT --YOU'VE LOST! I AM HUNK THE BOUNTY HUNTER-- AND THE WINNER OF BIANCA'S LOVE!
CHARMING FELLOW...
POW
FRED?
FEAR NOT, BIANCA --EVERYTHING IS UNDER CONTROL!
BUT WHEN HE SAID THAT, FRED EXPECTED TO LAND IN THE LAGOON, NOT FLY THROUGH THE OPEN HATCH OF HUNK'S SHIP...
WHUMP!
OUCH!
HE DIDN'T EXPECT TO BE FIGHTING IN AN ENCLOSED SPACE!
HI, TWERP!
WHAT WAS IT YOU WERE GOING TO TEACH ME?
HE DIDN'T EXPECT TO LOSE HIS ONE ADVANTAGE --HIS ABILITY TO MOVE QUICKLY!
UH, OH...
C'MON--
--TEACH ME! I WANT TO KNOW!
SPLASH
CRAK CRAK
POUND POUND POUND POUND POUND POUND
POW!
CRUNCH

BAH--YOU DIDN'T EVEN PUT UP A GOOD FIGHT! DEEP INSIDE, BIANCA WILL BE TICKLED PINK TO SEE ME EMERGE VICTORIOUS!
AND AFTER I GIVE HER A ROLL IN THE SAND, HER GRATITUDE WILL KNOW NO BOUNDS!
BUT IS FRED HORS DE COMBAT?
OR...
TAP TAP
POW
TSK, TSK! I THOUGHT YOU KNEW NEVER TO TURN YOUR BACK ON AN ENEMY!
ESPECIALLY ONE WHO HAS A TARDIS 40 SPACE YACHT THAT CAN BECOME A BIONIC FIST!
THUD
UNFORTUNATELY, THE ENHANCED FORCE OF FRED'S BLOWS DOES MORE THAN BATTER HUNK--IT ALSO ROCKS THE BOAT! AND...
BLUB
NO! IT'S SINKING!

AS THE BUBBLES DWINDLE, SO DOES BIANCA'S HOPE...
SECONDS LATER, ALL HOPE IS LOST!
:GASP:
FRED--YOU MADE IT!
OF COURSE! WOULD HAVE BEEN HERE SOONER, BUT YOUR EX-LOVER SLOWED ME DOWN!
WHEN HUNK AWAKENS, HE DISCOVERS HIMSELF TO BE NOT ON THE PARADISE PLANET, BUT BACK ON...
REMEMBER ME--?!
READY OR NOT, HERE I COME!
OH, NO! NOT YOU!
HEH, HEH, HEH!
OH, YES! ME!

NEXT-CENSORED

DAVID ANTHONY KRAFT'S

COMICS INTERVIEW

50th Anniversary

SPECIAL EDITION

DAVID ANTHONY KRAFT'S
COMICS INTERVIEW

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY ★ FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY ★ FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY ★

BIG 50th

OVER 100 PAGES

All George Perez Issue!

George Perez opens up to Andy Mangels, who asks all the questions you've always wanted to hear answered. From his earliest work to the far-ranging future, Perez covers it all — inside stories, secret stuff you've never noticed in the art, topics he's never talked about before. Candid photos. The unprinted projects. The missing TITANS you'll never know about — unless you read this epic, lavishly illustrated interview! This one's a must!

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To celebrate our big 50th issue, we've gone all out to bring you a book-length special edition — an important work that belongs in every comics collection. George Perez provided us with 30 pounds of original art to pick from, and Andy Mangels opened his collection of Perez art work, the largest in the world — he has stuff even George doesn't! You'll see art never published anywhere! More like a book than a magazine, it may be the only way to add this art to your collection.

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Comics Interview

So far, there are only four titles from David Anthony Kraft's publishing company, but I like all of them.

• *MICRA* is an acronym for *M*ind *C*ontrolled *R*emote *A*utomaton. It is also one heck of a good comic book by Lamar Waldron and Ted Boonthanakit. This is a 12-issue limited series about a crippled woman who can project her consciousness into an automaton (see the title).

That is a much-too-simplified summation of a rich, complex SF novel in comic-book form. Ted's art has been compared to many different American artists (none of whose work Ted has seen; he was born in Thailand and grew up in Africa) and is remarkably clear and exciting.

Grade: A.

M·I·C·R·A™

MIND CONTROLLED REMOTE AUTOMATON

• *Aristocratic X-traterrestrial Time-Traveling Thieves* (*X-Thieves* for short) has had two first issues, which is annoying to indexers and compilers of price guides, but the bright, sprightly scripts by Henry Vogel and the appropriately humorous art of Mark Propst make up for that. One of the main features of this comic book is that, like the *Mad* comic books, the panels are filled with gags, such as the crisis hotline which warns: "New universe forming — disaster imminent!"

The Southern Knights make a guest appearance in the second first issue, in which the X-Thieves steal the formula for original Coca-Cola. This is one of the best of the funny comic books (and one of the handful that really *is* funny).

Grade: A.

X-THIEVES™

SOUTHERN KNIGHTS™

• I haven't seen the last couple of issues of *Southern Knights* yet but, unless the series has gone radically downhill since #16, this is still one of the best and most original of all the supergroups. Grade: A.

• While *Comics Interview* is not a comic book, I think I can squeeze in a recommendation. This excellent publication gives a well-rounded view of the industry, with interviews with writers, pencillers, inkers, letterers, colorists, and others.

Naturally, your interest in an issue will depend on who is being interviewed, but there have been 40 issues of *Comics Interview* and no totally dull ones — not even the *G.I. Joe* issue. Grade: A.

Four titles.
Four As. Four for four. Way to go, Dave.

— Don Thompson
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